

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for selecting and manipulating multiple objects in a document, comprising:

receiving from a computer input device information for the selection of two or more objects in a document, the selection indicating that the selected objects are to be manipulated together by an operation without the need to permanently group the objects from a computer input device;

displaying on a computer display a multiple selection highlight object that bounds the selected objects for purposes of manipulating the selected objects without permanently grouping the selected objects, wherein the multiple selection highlight object provides visual feedback of the multiple selection of the two or more objects and includes handles for object manipulation; and

automatically configuring the selected objects to be manipulated according to the manipulation of the multiple selection highlight object using the handles until an indication is received from a computer input device that the selected objects are to no longer be manipulated as a group ~~at least one of the two or more objects are deselected.~~

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving information for the selection of two or more objects comprises receiving information based on one of a continuous selection of all of the two or more objects or an individual selection of each of the two or more objects.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising creating outlines that bound the selected objects.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the handles include:
a rotation handle that can be manipulated to cause the rotation of the multiple selection highlight object and the selected objects;
a selection handle that can be manipulated to cause the resizing of the multiple selection highlight object and the selected objects; and
an axis pin that can be positioned to provide an axial reference point for the manipulation of the two or more objects.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
detecting a rotative manipulation of the multiple selection highlight object; and
displaying the selected objects and the multiple selection highlight object in a rotated orientation corresponding to the rotative manipulation of the multiple selection highlight object.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
displaying the multiple selection highlight object with the axis pin visible in response to a positioning of the user interface in a vicinity of the rotation handle;
detecting a positioning of the axis pin;
detecting an engagement and manipulation of the rotation handle by the user interface;
periodically displaying the selected objects and the multiple selection highlight object in a temporary rotated orientation relative to the positioning of the axis pin and the manipulation of the rotation handle until the rotation handle is disengaged by the user interface; and
displaying the selected objects and the multiple selection highlight object in a permanently rotated orientation relative to the positioning of the axis pin and corresponding to the manipulation of the rotation handle before it is disengaged by the user interface.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
detecting an input of a flip command for the two or more objects; and
displaying the selected objects and the multiple selection highlight object in a position that is flipped relative to a position of the axis pin in accordance with the flip command.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
displaying the multiple selection highlight object with the axis pin visible in response to a positioning of the user interface in a vicinity of the rotation handle;
detecting a positioning of the axis pin;
detecting an input of a flip command for the two or more objects; and
displaying the selected objects and the multiple selection highlight object in a position that is flipped relative to the positioning of the axis pin in accordance with the flip command.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
detecting a manipulation of the selection handle; and
displaying the selected objects and the multiple selection highlight object with one or more of their dimensions modified relative to the manipulation of the selection handle.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
detecting an engagement and manipulation of the selection handle by a user interface;
periodically displaying the selected objects and the multiple selection highlight object with one or more of their dimensions temporarily modified relative to the manipulation of the selection handle until the selection handle is disengaged by the user interface; and

displaying the selected objects and the multiple selection highlight object with one or more of their dimensions permanently modified corresponding to the manipulation of the selection handle before it is disengaged by the user interface.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
detecting the deselection of at least one of the two or more objects; and
displaying the two or more objects with an appearance that corresponds to previous manipulations of the multiple selection highlight object.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer system for selecting and manipulating multiple objects, comprising:

- a processing unit;
- a memory in communication with the processing unit;
- a user interface in communication with the processing unit;
- a display device in communication with the processing unit; and
- a computer program stored in the memory that provides instructions to the processing unit, wherein the processing unit is responsive to the instructions, operable for:

receiving from the user interface information ~~from the user interface~~ to select two or more objects displayed on the display device, the selection indicating that the selected objects are to be manipulated together by an operation without the need to permanently group the objects;

creating a multiple selection highlight object that bounds the selected objects for purposes of manipulating the selected objects without permanently grouping the selected objects, wherein the multiple selection highlight object provides visual feedback of the multiple selection of the two or more objects and includes handles for object manipulation; and

rendering the selected objects and the multiple selection highlight object to the display device to provide visual feedback of the multiple selection of the two or more objects; and
automatically configuring the selected objects to be manipulated according to the manipulation of the multiple selection highlight object using the handles until an indication is received from the user interface that the selected objects are to no longer be manipulated as a group features of object manipulation until at least one of the two or more objects are deselected.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 12, wherein the processing unit, responsive to the instructions, is operable for creating a multiple selection highlight object by creating an outline that at least partially bounds the selected objects and comprises at least one of:

- a rotation handle that can be manipulated to cause the rotation of the multiple selection highlight object and the selected objects;
- a selection handle that can be manipulated to cause the resizing of the multiple selection highlight object and the selected objects; and
- an axis pin that can be positioned to provide an axial reference point for the manipulation of the two or more objects.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 13, wherein the processing unit, responsive to the instructions, is further operable for:

- rendering the multiple selection highlight object with the axis pin to the display device in response to a positioning of the user interface in a vicinity of the rotation handle;
- detecting a positioning of the axis pin by the user interface;
- detecting an engagement and manipulation of the rotation handle by the user interface; and

rendering the selected objects and the multiple selection highlight object to the display device in a rotated orientation relative to the positioning of the axis pin and corresponding to the manipulation of the rotation handle.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 13, wherein the processing unit, responsive to the instructions, is further operable for:

rendering the multiple selection highlight object with the axis pin to the display device in response to a positioning of the user interface in a vicinity of the rotation handle;

detecting a positioning of the axis pin by the user interface;

detecting the input of a flip command for the two or more objects via the user interface; and

rendering the selected objects and the multiple selection highlight object to the display device in a position that is flipped relative to the positioning of the axis pin in accordance with the flip command.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 13, wherein the processing unit, responsive to the instructions, is further operable for:

detecting an engagement and manipulation of the selection handle by the user interface; and

rendering the selected objects and the multiple selection highlight object to the display device with one or more of their dimensions modified corresponding to the manipulation of the selection handle before it is disengaged by the user interface.

17. (Original) The computer system of claim 13, wherein the processing unit, responsive to the instructions, is further operable for:

detecting the deselection of at least one of the two or more objects by the user interface; and

rendering the two or more objects to the display device with an appearance that corresponds to previous manipulations of the multiple selection highlight object.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for selecting and manipulating multiple objects, comprising:

logic for receiving information for the selection of both a first object and a second object displayed in a graphical user interface, the selection indicating that the selected objects are to be manipulated together by an operation without the need to permanently group the objects;

logic for creating a multiple selection highlight object that bounds the first object and the second object for purposes of manipulating the selected objects without permanently grouping the selected objects to provide visual feedback of the multiple selection of the first object and the second object, the multiple selection highlight object including handles for object manipulation;

logic for aligning the multiple selection object to an orientation of the first object; and

logic for displaying the first object, the second object, and the multiple selection highlight object in the graphical user interface to provide visual feedback of the multiple selection and manipulation of the first object and the second object using the handles of the multiple selection highlight object.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, further comprising:

logic for detecting a manipulation of the multiple selection highlight object relative to a single dimension;

logic for proportionately resizing two or more dimensions of the first object in correspondence with the manipulation of the multiple selection highlight object when the first object is not aligned with the orientation of the multiple

selection highlight object, thereby reducing distortion of the shape of the object when it is resized; and

logic for rendering the first object, the second highlight object, and the multiple selection highlight object to the graphical user interface with one or more of their dimensions modified in correspondence with the manipulation of the multiple selection highlight object.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for selecting and manipulating multiple objects, comprising:

automatically associating two or more objects to a common reference object in response to a selection of the two or more objects, the selection indicating that the selected objects are to be manipulated together by an operation without the need to permanently group the objects ~~without grouping the selected objects~~, the common reference object boundings the two or more objects for purposes of manipulating the selected objects without permanently grouping the selected objects and including handles for object manipulation;

causing a manipulation of the two or more objects in response to making the manipulation to the common reference object; and

automatically disassociating the two or more objects from the common reference object in response to an indication that the selected objects are to no longer be manipulated as a group ~~deselection of at least one of the two or more objects~~.

21. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 20, wherein automatically associating two or more objects to a common reference object comprises aligning the common reference object to the orientation of at least one of the two or more objects.

22. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 20, wherein causing a manipulation of the two or more objects comprises causing at least one of rotating, flipping, or resizing the two or more objects in response to making the manipulation to the common reference object.

23. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 20, further comprising establishing a common reference point with respect to the common reference object, wherein the common reference point is repositionable, and the two or more objects are manipulable with respect to the common reference point.

24. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein causing a manipulation of the two or more objects comprises proportionately modifying two or more dimensions of each of the two or more objects that is not in alignment with the common reference object in response to a modification of one dimension of the common reference object.